(b) whether it is in existence in India;

(c) if so, since how long;

(d) whether it is a fact that this service is highly useful to terrorists' organizations and the Ministry of Home Affairs has objected to the issue of this service; and

(e) while so, whether it is a fact that a number of private persons have been given this service while BSNL has not been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Black Berry is a product developed by Canadian company Research-In-Motion (RIM). Black Berry is a wireless handheld device which supports email, mobile telephone, text messaging, internet faxing, web browsing and other wireless information services.

(b) Yes, Sir, it is in existence in India.

(c) Such devices are being provided by Indian Telecom Access Providers from 3rd Qtr of 2007.

(d) While Ministry of Home Affairs has raised some security concerns it can not be assumed that this service is highly useful to terrorists' organizations.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Interest of postal services in the country

648. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under rules, courier services for articles with 500 gms and less in weight are not permitted enabling the postal services to deal with such services;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that private courier services are liberally doing this kind of services which is detrimental to the interests of postal services; and

(c) the practical preventive action to ensure the interest of postal services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

Review of spectrum pricing

649. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several associations have urged to review spectrum pricing;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon; and

(c) if no decision is taken, by when it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The review of spectrum pricing/charging is undertaken from time to, time, taking into account various relevant aspects viz, consultations with various stake holders, and the concerned Ministries, with a view to bring spectrum charges to a realistic level from the point of view of optimal and efficient use of the sepectrum.

Financial melt down in US

650. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial melt down in US is adversely affecting the prospects/profitability of Indian B.P.O. and I.T. companies which are linked to the business orders from USA;

(b) if so, the measures taken to salvage the position and project the jobs both within the country and that of the NRIs;

(c) whether steps are taken to keep these companies healthy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The financial meltdown in the US has had an impact on many sectors including IT and BPO.

(b) to (d) As per the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), most companies are working to increase their levels of utilization of resources and look to redeploy personnel within the organization where possible. The meltdown being a global phenomenon, there is only a limited amount of measures that individual companies are able to take. Some aspects that are being looked into by various organizations include:

– focus on productivity, efficiency, resource utilization etc.,

– wage moderation, optimal lateral hiring, etc.,

– increasing levels of efficiency for asset utilization like real estate, IT infrastructure, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Mobile tariffs

651. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a move that will bring down mobile tariffs further, DoT has asked telecom regulator to undertake a review of the existing termination charges;

(b) whether termination rates are paid by the telecom operator on whose network the call originates to the operator on whose network the call ends;